

and Women's Hospitals, has taken steps to reduce the number of unnecessary diagnostic tests it conducts at outpatient radiology centers, though executives know that smarter care will cut into their revenues.

"That's where you're smack up against the perverseness of the system," said Dr. James J. Mongan, chief executive of Partners.

Medicare's payment policies have stymied efforts in the private sector to improve care, as well.

For example, the Leapfrog Group, a national organization of large employers concerned about health issues, has tried to encourage more hospitals to employ intensivists—specialists who oversee the care provided in intensive-care units. Though studies show that such doctors significantly improve care, Medicare does not pay for them, and employers and insurers are having difficulty persuading some hospitals to take on the added expense.

"It's going to be very hard to compete with the incentives and disincentives in Medicare," said Suzanne Delbanco, the group's executive director.

Others argue that hospitals and doctors should not be paid extra for doing what they should be doing in the first place.

Helen Darling, the executive director of the National Business Group on Health, a national employer group, said Medicare instead should take a firmer stance in demanding quality. The program had a significant effect, she noted, when it said that only hospitals meeting a minimum set of standards could be reimbursed by Medicare for heart transplants.

"The payment system drove quality," Ms. Darling said.

Medicare itself is taking some other tentative steps, including an experiment that pays certain hospitals an extra 2 percent for delivering the highest-quality care, as measured, for example, by administering antibiotics to pneumonia patients quickly and giving heart attack patients aspirin. But some hospital industry executives question whether that is enough money to offset the costs of improving care.

"It can only be a motivator if you really have an incentive," said Carmela Coyle, an executive with the American Hospital Association, who noted that hospitals on average are paid only 98 cents for each dollar of Medicare services they provide.

Mr. Scully, the Medicare administrator, defends the experiment, saying that the agency's goal is to determine if it is using the right measures to reward quality. "If this works, we'll do a bigger demonstration," he said.

But many policy analysts and employer groups want Medicare to do more. "Today, Medicare needs to step out front," said Peter V. Lee, chief executive of the Pacific Business Group on Health, who argues that how hospitals and doctors are paid is a critical component of motivating them to improve care. "There needs to be money at play."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPORTSMEN TO AMERICAN SOCIETY, SUPPORTING THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF SPORTSMEN, AND RECOGNIZING THE MANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 279

Whereas there are more than 38,000,000 sportsmen in the United States;

Whereas these sportsmen, who come from all walks of life, engage in a sport they love, while helping to stimulate the economy, especially in small, rural communities, and contributing to conservation efforts;

Whereas sportsmen demonstrate values of conservation, appreciation of the outdoors, and love of the natural beauty of the United States;

Whereas sporting activities have both physical and mental health benefits that allow Americans to escape from the fast pace of their lives and to spend time with their families and friends;

Whereas sportsmen pass down their love of the outdoors from generation to generation; Whereas many sportsmen consider hunting, trapping, and fishing of tremendous importance to the American way of life;

Whereas sportsmen have a passion for learning about nature and have tremendous respect for the game pursued, other sportsmen, the non-hunting populace, and the natural resources upon which they depend;

Whereas the total economic contribution of sportsmen amounts to \$70,000,000,000 annually, with a ripple effect amounting to \$179,000,000,000;

Whereas sportsmen contribute \$1,700,000,000 every year for conservation programs, and these funds constitute a significant portion of on-the-ground wildlife conservation funding;

Whereas anglers support 1,000,000 jobs and small businesses in communities in every part of the United States, and they purchase \$3,200,000,000 in basic fishing equipment every year;

Whereas tens of millions of Americans hunt and are a substantial economic force, spending \$21,000,000,000 every year;

Whereas a sportsman President, Theodore Roosevelt, established America's first National Wildlife Refuge 100 years ago, and with the committed support of sportsmen over the last century, the National Wildlife Refuge System includes more than 540 refuges spanning 95,000,000 acres throughout all 50 States;

Whereas the funds raised from sportsmen through purchases of Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps under the Act of March 16, 1934 (commonly known as the Duck Stamp Act) (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.), are used to purchase and restore vital wetlands in the refuge system;

Whereas the sale of those stamps has raised more than \$500,000,000 which has been used to acquire approximately 5,000,000 acres of refuge lands;

Whereas in 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), under which sportsmen and the firearms and ammunition industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on ammunition and firearms, the proceeds of which are distributed to the States for wildlife restoration;

Whereas the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act has created a source of permanent funding for State wildlife agencies that has been used to rebuild and expand the ranges of numerous species, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, American elk, bison, desert bighorn sheep, bobcat, and mountain lion, and several non-game species, including bald eagles, sea otters, and numerous song birds;

Whereas in 1950, Congress passed the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.), under which recreational

anglers and the fishing and tackle manufacturing industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on sport fishing equipment (including fishing rods, reels, lines, and hooks, artificial lures, baits and flies, and other fishing supplies and accessories), the proceeds of which are used for the purposes of constructing fish hatcheries, building boat access facilities, promoting fishing, and educating children about aquatic resources and fishing; and

Whereas the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was amended in 1984 to extend the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment and to dedicate a portion of the existing Federal tax on motorboat fuels to those purposes, so that now approximately 1/3 of the funds expended by State fish and wildlife agencies for maintenance and development of sports fisheries are collected through the use of the excise tax: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society;

(2) supports the traditions and values of sportsmen;

(3) supports the many conservation programs implemented by sportsmen;

(4) recognizes the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities; and

(5) recognizes the importance of encouraging the recruitment of, and teaching the traditions of hunting, trapping, and fishing to, future sportsmen.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—CONGRATULATING THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES FOR WINNING THE 2003 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Whereas on November 23, 2003, the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Chicago Fire to win the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes achieved a 14-7-9 regular season record to finish first in the Major League Soccer Western Conference;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes finished an extraordinary season by overcoming injuries, adversity, and multiple-goal deficits to reach the Major League Soccer Cup championship match;

Whereas in the championship match, the San Jose Earthquakes and the Chicago Fire scored 6 goals combined, breaking the Major League Soccer Cup championship match scoring record;

Whereas head coach Frank Yallop led the San Jose Earthquakes to victory;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes is a team of world-class players, including Jeff Agoos, Arturo Alvarez, Brian Ching, Jon Conway, Ramiro Corrales, Troy Dayak, Dwayne De Rosario, Landon Donovan, Todd Dunivant, Ronnie Ekelund, Rodrigo Faria, Manny Lagos, Roger Levesque, Brain Mullan, Richard Mulrooney, Pat Onstad, Eddie Robinson, Chris Roner, Ian Russell, Josh Saunders, Craig Waibel, and Jamil Walker, all of whom contributed extraordinary performances throughout the regular season, playoffs and Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Ronnie Ekelund scored in the fifth minute of play, tying Eduardo Hurtado for the fastest goal scored in a Major League Soccer Cup championship match;